

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated December 14, 2004, the Examiner indicated that Box 16 in Fig. 1 should be labeled; rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagata (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,308); and indicated that claims 4, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for speaking with Applicants' representatives during an interview on February 22, 2005. The remarks presented below are consistent with the topics discussed and agreements reached during the interview.

By this Reply, and according to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended Fig. 1 by labeling box 16 as a "controller." Applicants have also amended claims 1, 10 and 17. Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagata because Nagata fails to disclose every claim element. For example, independent claim 1 recites a combination of steps including, *inter alia*, "measuring a voltage of at least one signal with respect to a primary ground potential to provide a voltage measurement . . . and adjusting the voltage measurement . . ." Nagata fails to disclose at least these claim elements.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained that Nagata discloses an amplifier 51 that measures the voltage of signal ei1. While Nagata discloses an amplifier 51, it fails to disclose that amplifier 51 "measures" the voltage of signal e1 with respect to a primary ground potential 13 to provide a "voltage measurement," as required by claim 1.

Rather, the system in Nagata merely accounts for a difference in ground potential when it generates signal eo1. There is no voltage measurement provided or adjusted in the system of Nagata.

Similarly, Nagata fails to disclose every element of independent claims 10 and 17. For example, independent claims 10 and 17 recite a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, a processor configured to “measure, with respect to the first voltage potential, a first voltage magnitude associated with the input signal to provide a voltage measurement . . . .” Nagata fails to disclose at least these elements.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained that Nagata discloses a “processor” consisting of amplifier 1 and amplifier 3. These elements, however, do not constitute the claimed “processor.” Unlike the claimed “processor,” for example, the amplifiers of Nagata cannot “measure” a voltage magnitude to provide a voltage measurement.

Because Nagata fails to disclose every claim element, the Section 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 10 and 17 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 11-14 ultimately depend on one of claims 1, 10 and 17 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and in view of their additional recitations of novelty.

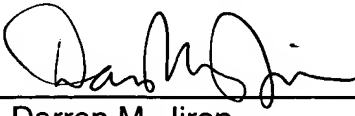
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response, and charge any required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: One drawing sheet including an amended Fig. 1